

Minutes of WITT Committee Meeting in Toronto

July 24, 2011

Attending: Cindy Bernstein, Cheri Bjerkan, Joan Gerard, Gail Greenberg, Martha Katz, Jan Martel, Sylvia Moss, Barbara Nudelman, Rozanne Pollack, David Sokolow, Nadine Wood

Minutes: The Louisville minutes were unanimously approved.

2012 Trials: Because holding the Open Trials right after the Cavendish reduced the field, we were allowed to get out of our contract in Las Vegas. Our trials will now be held in Chicago (Schaumburg, in a newly-renovated hotel) in conjunction with the Senior Trials, starting June 1, 2012. This will be cost-effective for the USBF; the Open Trials will be held in the same hotel April 27-May 6, so the equipment will already be there. The world championships are scheduled to be held in the U. K. in August. Sylvia moved to have entries close April 15, with late entries accepted until May 13, but only if they result in an even number of teams and do not change the format. Cindy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2013 Trials: Sylvia proposed eliminating the RR if only a few teams entered, but the committee was split, so no action was taken. She also suggested having more boards in the finals. After discussion, a motion was passed to increase the number of boards in the semi-final to 96, and the number in the final to 128.* The committee decided to leave the existing format in place for 2012.

WKO: The Board is considering holding a two-day Swiss qualifying, followed by a KO [presumably on account of our Louisville resolution: "The Wagar Women's KO Teams shall consist of a two-day Swiss qualifying event followed by a KO. If 24 or fewer teams enter, 8 teams will qualify for the KO (5 days in all); if more than 24 teams enter, 16 teams will qualify for the KO (6 days in all)."] Although most people at the Louisville meeting favored this format (all but one voted in favor), most here were against it despite reports from Suzi Subeck that a number of women liked the idea. It was suggested that the Mixed BAM be moved to Monday-Tuesday, with the WKO starting Wednesday (so it would not compete with the Senior Swiss and early stages of the various Spingold events). No action was taken.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 23, 2012, at 11:30 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Memphis.

* Jan and I believe the committee needs to revisit this issue in Seattle. Two teams will be selected in 2013. Will the final for USA2 also be 128 boards? If so, the event will last 8 days instead of 6 (assuming a 2-day RR). This is problematic as we are already negotiating hotel contracts based on the shorter duration. Another (smaller) wrinkle: The last day will be a half-day, which is expensive for the teams and USBF. One possibility would be to leave the semis at 64 boards, since the losing semi-finalists will have a second chance, and then have the finals and USA2 finals be 128 boards. That would only add one day to the schedule and would eliminate the "half-day" problem. Finally, are we correct in assuming that the playoff between the losing semi-finalists will be 128 boards, too, since it is contemporaneous with the final? Thank you.